



BIGFOOT BULLETIN

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No. 8

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NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RENE DAHINDEN of B.C., Canada, is now in the Willow Creek-Bluff Creek area of northern California and wants to contact as many Bigfoot hunters as possible. He will be in the area for two or three weeks and can be contacted through Al Hodgson at the Willow Creek Variety Store.

ANDERSON VALLEY BIGFOOT RESEARCH CENTER has a new address. Write : Ben E. Foster Jr., Rt. 1, Box 4532, Fig Tree Lane, Redding, Calif. 96001. Phone remains the same : 916-365-3135. Other members are : Eldon Brackett, Dewayne Erickson, John Kitchen, Damien Franco and Shorty Sharp. Sponsor : Claude Gasser, proprietor of a paint store in Anderson and owner of the "Bigfoot Claim", a mining property in Trinity County at the base of the Trinity Alps.

BIGFOOT VISITS BIG HILL LOOKOUT

DAVID PEZONELLA, the fire lookout on Big Hill, six miles east of Hoopa in the Hoopa Indian Reservation, California, found one clear sharp footprint sixteen inches long when he went outside early Saturday morning, August 9, 1969. The print was within about six feet of the station house. During the evening before various members of the Pezonella family had gathered at the station for a party. They had been making a lot of noise, telling ghost stories and doing a lot of screaming which David Pezonella thinks might have aroused Bigfoot's curiosity. On August 19, 1969, John H. Dana and George F. Haas visited the station and found that the original track had been obliterated. Diligent search in company with David Pezonella turned up three other possible tracks within 40 to 50 feet of the station house in hard ground in a southeasterly direction. All were 16 inches long.

BIGFOOT ROMPING WITH BEAR !

CLAUDE V. NEUFFER of Portland, Oregon, writes (July 15, 1969) : "Six years ago I found some human-type tracks on the top of Wildcat Mt. 35 miles east of here. They were not large, just about the same length as my own. However, they went down in the snow about three inches, and mine only sank about 1½ inches. (The snow was hard-packed, of course). What intrigued me was the fact that there was also a set of bear tracks all around with these tracks. Were they traveling together, or were they made at different times, the same night ? Both sets of tracks were all over the road, usually going back and forth across the road, occasionally wandering around down the road. They looked like they were romping around together, really. Incidentally, the people who say Sasquatch tracks are just plain bear tracks should have seen these two together, this way. There could be no comparison ; the difference is as plain as day."

THE HOQUIAM, WASHINGTON, REPORT

By this time most readers of the BIGFOOT BULLETIN will have read one or more accounts of the sighting of a Sasquatch by a sheriff's deputy of Grays Harbor County, Washington, on July 26, 1969. Newspapers all over the country picked up the story and we are in receipt of dozens of clippings from "subscribers" from all over for which we thank them. The most interesting and revealing report of all is herewith reprinted from John Green's THE ADVANCE, Agassiz, B.C., Canada, August 7, 1969 :

In Spotlight At Close Range

Deputy Gives Detailed Description of Sasquatch

A statement issued last week by the sheriff of Gray's Harbour County, Washington, that one of his deputies had admitted seeing a female bear, not a sasquatch, is completely contradicted by this interview with the deputy recorded by John Green last Thursday.

Mr. Green interviewed the deputy in company with two physical anthropologists from the University of Washington.

Q. To begin with, could we get your name on the tape?

A. My name is Verlin Herrington.

Q. Where do you live?

A. I live at Copalis Beach, Washington.

Q. How old are you?

A. Thirty years old.

Q. What is your occupation?

A. I am a Deputy Sheriff for Gray's Harbour County.

Q. Now, the incident we've been discussing, could you give us the date when that took place?

A. Yes, it was July 26, it was on a Sunday.

Q. And the year?

A. 1969.

Q. And what time?

A. It was 2:35 a.m.

Q. What were you doing at that time?

A. I had been on an incident at Humpulips and I was en route by way of Deekay Road, by Grass Creek Road, to the beach and into my residence.

Q. You were working at that time?

A. Right!

Q. What was it that happened while you were making that trip?

A. As I was going down Deekay Road I rounded a corner, and my first impression was of a large bear standing in the middle of the road. I either had to stop for

the bear or hit him so I decided to stop, put on the brakes, came to a screeching halt, and coasted up the slight grade as far as I could without startling the animal as I was looking at it as I was going towards it. This animal in my opinion was not a bear, because you could see by the way it was standing that it had no snout, it had a face on it. Its eyes reflected, and when I came to a complete stop I could see in the headlights of my car that it had feet on it instead of paws, and it had breasts. When I centred my spotlight on the patrol car on it, it walked to the edge of the road, it didn't fall down on all fours like a bear would, it walked upright as a person would. It walked to the edge of the roadway and stopped, turned, still looking at me. I re-adjusted the spotlight on my car so I could look at it better. Its feet had hair down to the soles but you could see the outline of the foot, it did have toes. Its hand was in a position where it was spread out, and it did have fingers. After I'd re-adjusted the spotlight, I rolled the window down, pulled my revolver and crawled out of the door. I aimed my revolver at it and as I cocked the hammer on it the animal went into the brush. I got back in my car and drove off. Reported the next morning back to the scene and went through the area, found where the animal had gone into the bush and where it had come back out on to the roadway.

Q. Did you find any tracks at all?

A. Yes, I found one indentation in the ground. I did take a photograph of it, it wasn't such a print that you could pour a cast of.

Q. How big was it?

A. I measured the track, it was

18 1/2 inches. The animal itself was around seven to seven and a half feet tall, weighing approximately 300 to 325 pounds.

Q. How far away were you when you were looking at it?

A. 75 to 80 feet.

Q. How long would you say you were able to observe it before it left the road?

A. Approximately a minute or a minute and a quarter, maybe a minute and a half. This was from the time that I came to a complete stop. I was observing it as I coasted towards it. So maybe overall - 2 minutes.

Q. And in that time it was standing erect on its hind legs?

A. Yes it was. As it went off into the brush it was still on its hind legs.

Q. Where it went into the brush, that's down quite a steep little bank isn't it?

A. Yes it is.

Q. And could you see that it remained erect as it went down the bank?

A. Until it went out of the spotlight, yes.

Q. Had it started to descend the bank in the spotlight or was it gone from the spotlight?

A. It went down the bank and approximately half way down it went out of the spotlight, still in an erect position.

Q. Just to sort of go over it from top to bottom - can you tell us anything about the shape of the head? For instance, your first impression was a bear. Did it have a snout?

A. No it didn't have a snout. I couldn't say that it has a nose like a person would have. I believe that there was no hair on its face. It had a dark leathery look.

Q. Did you get any impression of the length of hair on the head or on the rest of it?

A. I would say about 3 to 4 inches on the head.

Q. It didn't have long hanging hair at all?

A. Longer on the head than on the body, yes.

Q. What sort of a neck did it have?

A. No neck.

Q. You mentioned, I think, that it had breasts?

A. yes.

Q. Where on the body were they located?

A. Like a human person's. They were also covered with hair except for the nipples and they were skin.

Q. Did you mention the colour of the hair?

A. No, I didn't. It was brownish black, dark colored.

Q. You say you saw a hand with the fingers extended?

A. Yes.

Q. Could you tell how long the arms were?

A. I would have to guess at

how long they are. The arm that I was looking at was in a bent position like you catch someone startled.

Q. You couldn't at anytime see how far down the body the arm would come?

A. No

Q. Comparing it to a human, would you say that it had long legs or short legs?

A. Long legs I would say - long muscular legs.

Q. Did it take long strides?

A. No, it seemed like it took small steps as it walked. It was watching me as it walked to the edge of the road. They would be large steps for a normal human but for this animal they were short steps. About three steps from the centre of the road to the edge.

Q. Did you notice any difference in the way it walked and the way a human would walk?

A. Same type of position and same type of walk as a human being.

Q. Any other details that you can recall that you noticed about it?

A. Really, that pretty well covers it.

Q. You didn't see the teeth I guess?

A. No.

Q. Did it taper at the waist? Did it have a narrow waist?

A. It was a big body - a big stout body - that's the best I remember it was - It could have been thinner at the waist - I don't remember.

Q. It was pretty heavily built?

A. Yes.



Your editor wishes to apologize for delay in answering correspondence. While on three field trips in search of the elusive Sasquatch, his mail has piled up to unbelievable heights. All correspondence will be answered as soon as possible.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM ALL OVER

JIM McCLARIN has recently returned from a trip to the east coast with C.A. Eagan. They visited the Ringing Rocks in Pennsylvania, investigated a "Bigfoot" report in Georgia, visited the Willis brothers at INFO headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, Lucius Farish in Arkansas, Loren E. Coleman (who researches "Bigfoot" reports from the Mississippi east) of Carbondale, Illinois, and spent some time researching in the files of Ivan T. Sanderson in New Jersey. Before going east Jim McClarin investigated the Oroville report, interviewing Charles R. Jackson and he found a half dozen hairs on the door jam of the outhouse. ... RANGER SYLVESTER McCOY has returned to Willow Creek after a lengthy stay in southern California. ... JOHN FUHRMANN of Portland, Oregon, reports a sequel to the Dallas, Oregon, sighting (see BB 7). Mr. Ben Chapman "and a Bigfoot enthusiast Mike Hill, found about a dozen tracks about a mile from his daughter's home" on or about July 13. "There were two sets, 14.5" and 13" long with about 3'6" stride and were in an area of leafy mulch. The trail was lost when it entered heavy brush. He tried to make a plaster cast of one but did not succeed."

DICK FREY, Bigfoot searcher, 335 Laurel Drive, Arcata, California 95521, wishes to correspond with those actively searching in the field.

NEW LIGHT ON FOOTPRINTS IN ALASKA

In BIGFOOT BULLETIN No. 6, page 3, we reported on the find of tracks or footprints at Whitewater Bay, Admiralty Island, by Foster W. Wilkins, bear hunting guide of Juneau, Alaska. Later the 7 members of the yacht "Nathanial Bowditch" (see BIGFOOT BULLETIN 7, page 5, the item from THE PROVINCE, June 27, 1969) visited the site and confirmed Mr. Wilkins' find. Now we have a letter from Richard L. Tierney which throws a whole new light on the matter and we reprint it here almost in entirety :

RICHARD L. TIERNEY, writing from Juneau, Alaska, August 12, 1969 : "The mystery of the Whitewater Bay tracks has been cleared up. Today I flew down to Whitewater Bay with Foster Wilkins and Carl Lane and saw the tracks for myself. Foster has probably written you regarding the card he received from Mr. David Wharton of the "Nathanial Bowditch" in which Mr. Wharton confirmed Foster's report of the huge tracks on the south shore of Whitewater Bay. In this card Mr. Wharton referred to the 'unidentified animal tracks' as being 20" long by 13" wide and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. When I passed this information on to Mrs. Jane Wallen of the Alaska State Museum in Juneau she suggested that the tracks should be investigated before they deteriorated and, if they turned out to be anything unusual, that they should be photographed and documented thoroughly. We decided that Foster Wilkins should go since he knew exactly where the tracks were ; also, he could compare the present condition of the tracks with the way they appeared to him when he first discovered them last May. Carl Lane was asked to go too, since, as a bear-hunting guide of twenty years' standing in Alaska his word concerning bear tracks would be authoritative. Mrs. Wallen asked me if I would go also ; as you can imagine, I was quick to accept ! Today the weather cleared up enough to be suitable for photography and at noon the three of us left Juneau on a chartered flight. We arrived at Whitewater Bay shortly after 1:00 P.M. and the pilot put us ashore at the place Foster indicated - a level beach of fine gravel on the south shore of the bay near the head. Foster led us to the tracks without delay. They were right at the edge of the forest and parallel with the beach. They were roughly oval and so deep that it seemed to me that only an elephant could have been heavy enough to make them. They couldn't be Sasquatch tracks , either, as the stride was not nearly long enough in proportion to the size and depth of the footprints. I had never seen anything quite like them. Carl Lane too one look at them and said "Do you know what that is ? That's an old bear trail !" He explained that such bear trails form because the brown bears , following the same paths for year after year, always place their feet in exactly the same spots each time they pursue their routes. The one we were looking at, Carl said, might well be a hundred years old ! We measured and photographed the prints and obtained roughly the dimensions given by the "Nathanial Bowditch" crew: I obtained 21" for average length, 4" for depth, 24" for an average pace, 48" for stride. The stride seemed longer to a man trying to walk in the prints because they were more widely spaced laterally than a man's footprints would be. I counted 11 prints as did Mr. Wharton. At the west end of the trail of prints was the scraggly spruce from which the "Nathanial Bowditch" party had collected their problematical tuft of hair. We also found strands of hair snagged on the same spruce - brown bear hair, according to Carl. Neither Foster nor I had ever seen such a bear trail before. Carl explained that such trails are far less common now than they

used to be, as the bear population has declined due to hunting and it takes a lot of walking bears to maintain such a trail. Carl said he knew of other such trails, most of them on high ridges, some worn much deeper than the one we saw in Whitewater Bay and a few so old and deep that they had worn into the bedrock itself. The repeated passage of brown bears over these age-old trails not only deepens but also enlarges the depressions in which they place their paws till, eventually, "footprints" of impressive size and depth are formed. To my knowledge, bear trails of this sort have never been considered as a hazard to Sasquatch researchers, although bear footprints have often been analyzed with this in mind by Ivan T. Sanderson and many others. I am still puzzled as to why Sasquatch sightings or footprints have never been reported in Southeast Alaska, which geographically is merely an extension of the rain-forest country of British Columbia from which Sasquatch reports have come so regularly for the last century. Perhaps the Sasquatch simply does not occur here. Carl Lane, a bear guide here for some 20 years, says he has never heard of a Sasquatch being reported in Southeast Alaska."

HAIR AND FOOTPRINT FIND CORROBORATED

Last month we reported the find of hairs and over 400 footprints by John H. Dana and George F. Haas on the West Low Gap trail in Trinity County, California, in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest on July 14, 1969. About a week later John Kitchen, a member of the ANDERSON VALLEY BIGFOOT RESEARCH CENTER of Anderson, California, found and followed the same footprints. He also collected a dozen more hairs from a madrone tree off which a creature had stripped leaves.

On August 10, 1969, Ben E. Foster Jr., Eldon Brackett and Damien Franco, all members of the ANDERSON VALLEY BIGFOOT RESEARCH CENTER, and George F. Haas went down the old trail. The old prints were still intact but, of course, not as fresh-looking as when first found nearly a month before. Several dozen new footprints were found between West Low Gap and the beginning of the old ones. Several of these prints were quite distinct where the creature had stepped on the fine gravelly soil of the steep hillside. One print showed definite toe marks. These tracks led across the trail and up the hillside. All in the party agreed that they were Bigfoot tracks and that they were fresh, probably not over a day old.. It was the consensus of the party that Dana and Haas were quite conservative in their estimate of 400 tracks along a quarter mile of trail.

Bigfoot hunters would do well to look for footprints in the mulch on the forest floors. Heretofore, practically all search for footprints has been confined to sand bars and dirt roads which extremely limits the possibility of finding tracks. A heavy creature such as a Bigfoot does leave recognizable footprints in pine needles and forest humus as can now be attested by Dana, Haas, and the above mentioned four members of the ANDERSON VALLEY BIGFOOT RESEARCH CENTER.

BILL EDDINGTON has returned from a month's stay in the Bluff Creek area. He and his companion found no evidence of Bigfoot. They could find no area sufficiently remote from logging operations and tourists to put their plan into effect. They plan on continuing their search in some other area.